

Message Text

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O 180759Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126072

FOL CARACAS 4531 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTODOMINGO
BOGOTA PANAMA SAN JOSE MAY 18, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4531

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR VE DR
SUBJECT: PRES PEREZ APPEALS TO PRES CARTER ON DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC; PROPOSES CONVOKING ORGAN OF CONSULTATION

1. PRES PEREZ CALLED ME AT 10:00 THIS EVENING (MAY 17) TO SAY HE
HAD JUST TALKED TO MISAEL PASTRANA IN SANTO DOMINGO (MEMBER OF
OAS OBSERVATION TEAM), AND PASTRANA WAS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC.
HE SAID THE THREE EX-PRESIDENTS HAD HAD MEETING WITH BALAGUER
THIS AFTERNOON; BALAGUER IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING ACT AND THE
PRESIDENT OF THE JUNTA ELECTORAL IS DETAINED OR HAS FLED.
PASTRANA CLAIMS THAT THE MILITARY QUOTE HAVE LOST THEIR HEADS
UNQUOTE. PASTRANA CLAIMED THAT THE MILITARY HAD PREVENTED AMB.
YOST FROM GETTING TO BALAGUER. PASTRANA FURTHER SAID THAT THE
EX-PRESIDENTS PLAN TO LEAVE TOMORROW BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING
FURTHER THEY CAN DO.

2. PEREZ SAID HE PLEADED WITH PASTRANA NOT RPT NOT TO LEAVE
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TOMORROW SINCE THEIR PRESENCE REMAINS THE MAIN BULWARK
AGAINST A CONSUMMATED COUP. PEREZ ASKED THAT I PASS TO PRES
CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE HIS PLEA THAT WE USE OUR INFLUENCE
TO KEEP THE TEAM IN SANTO DOMINGO.

3. PEREZ FURTHER SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENTS
LOPEZ, AND CARRAZO AND GENERAL TORRIJOS AND ALL ARE OF THE

OPINION THAT THE SITUATION IS DESPARATE AND THAT THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION SHOULD BE CONVOKED. PEREZ ASKED THAT THE US SUPPORT A CONVOCATION, AND SAID HE WAS THEN CALLING AMB. MACHIN TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS TO THAT END.

4. PEREZ EXPRESSED HIS TREMENDOUS CONCERN ALONG THE LINES OF HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER (CARACAS 4523), AND URGED UNITED PRESSURE TO KEEP THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS INTACT. HE ASKED ME TO CALL HIM AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT WITH ANY NEWS AND WITH OUR VIEWS.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND OUR POSITION TO PASS ON TO PRES. PEREZ, TOGETHER WITH ANY RESPONSE WE MAY WISH TO MAKE TO HIS APPEALS. VAKY UNQUOTE VANCE

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